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FAKE VIET NAM VET FROM OROVILLE PLEADS GUILTY AND IS SENTENCED

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL ALLAN FRASER, 62, of Oroville, pleaded guilty and was sentenced yesterday by United States Magistrate Judge Edmund F. Brennan to serve 100 hours of community service helping veterans and to pay a fine of \$500. FRASER pleaded guilty and was immediately sentenced on charges that he violated the newly enacted Stolen Valor Act, a misdemeanor, which was signed into law by President Bush on December 20, 2006.

During sentencing, Judge Brennan told the defendant that this case exemplified the phrase “Those who do, do. And those who don’t, talk about it.”

This case was the product of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Butte County Sheriff’s Office.

The case was prosecuted by a certified law student, Caely Fallini, under the guidance of an Assistant United States Attorney. According to Ms. Fallini, FRASER gave an interview to the Oroville Mercury Register. FRASER concocted an elaborate story about serving in Vietnam and being shot at by AK-47 rifles while he was inside a STABO harness that was dangling beneath a helicopter, 3,000 feet off of the ground. FRASER claimed that as a result of his heroics and injuries, he was awarded two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. FRASER told the Oroville newspaper that he planned to visit Vietnam with two Vietnam veterans in order to “bury the ghosts of his past.” He then traveled to Vietnam with two other Vietnam veterans, who believed

they were helping him to bury the ghosts.

The Oroville Mercury Register then published a second story detailing FRASER's trip to Vietnam. FRASER reported that the trip was not as meaningful to him as it was to his companions because he was unable to visit the area of Vietnam where he had served.

In fact, although FRASER did serve in the military, he never served in Vietnam and never received any Purple Heart or Bronze Star military decorations. Doug Sterner, who was actively involved with drafting and promoting the Stolen Valor Act, alerted the Oroville Mercury Register about FRASER's actual military record.

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